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An Overview of the Guide

The purpose of the *Wisconsin Business and Information Technology Curriculum Planning Guide* is to provide local school districts resources in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating business and information technology programs. This guide is not a mandate or requirement but aids in providing direction and focus for identifying what students should know and be able to do in business and information technology.

This guide reflects current national and state business standards and initiatives. Members of the taskforce believe it has the potential to be adopted or adapted at the local school district level into the design of a meaningful business and information technology program.

The entire guide can be accessed and downloaded on the Department of Public Instruction's website at www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsis/let/bitcurriculum.html. Updates and additions to the guide will also be made available at this location.

This document is always subject to change and to continuous improvement. The Department of Public Instruction welcomes suggestions for improving the guide from those using it throughout Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Business and Information Technology Programs

Overview

Business education, in its earliest form, has existed even in the early American school system. Societal needs and demands have changed the face of business education from those early times to its present state. Federal funding has also played a role in the evolution of business education.

Over the past ten years, the term business education has evolved into a more comprehensive program and is reflected as such in the program name Business and Information Technology. Although many programs may still use the term business education, the trend continues to expand the program to include information technology. The integration and inclusion of technology into schools has advanced opportunities for business teachers to further develop curriculum in the information technology field.

Business and information technology is often found in the larger context of career and technical education. The Association for Career and Technical Education defines *career and technical education*:

Career and technical education prepares both youth and adults for a wide range of careers, from registered nurse to computer technician, that require varying levels of education—from high school to postsecondary certificates to two- and four-year college degrees (ACTE, 2002).

Mission Statement

The mission of business and information technology education is to teach for and about business. Business and information technology education prepares learners to make wise personal, economic, and career choices while developing knowledges, skills, and dispositions necessary to succeed in the workplace.

The Policies Commission for Business and Economic Education provides an updated need for business education:

Business education, a dynamic and diverse discipline, cannot be viewed apart from the society in which it functions. Business educators continually assess how individuals learn and assume new and different roles in a changing global society. As social, political, individual, and business needs emerge, the business education curriculum changes to meet those needs. We believe that to be productive and responsible citizens, all individuals must have the opportunity to learn and apply the principles of business to all aspects of their lives.

Business educators must proactively seek collaborative partners to secure society's commitment to providing business content and value-added skills to all individuals. Businesses, the community, and business educators must build an infrastructure of support to provide universal access to learning opportunities for all individuals. Each segment of a business education delivery system is an essential component in a comprehensive learning environment. All segments must be supported to ensure that individuals become productive and responsible citizens (PCBEE Policy Statement #71, 2002).